

We claim:

1. A disposable absorbent article comprising an absorbent chassis which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a pair of longitudinally opposed end edges, and a pair of laterally opposed side edges, said absorbent article further comprising:

5        a) at least one fit panel which is located in one of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis and which defines a waist edge, a pair of laterally opposed outward edges which are located laterally beyond said side edges of said absorbent chassis, and an inward edge which is located longitudinally inward from said waist edge;

10        b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outward edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region of said absorbent chassis to releasably engage said front waist region to said rear waist region to secure said absorbent article about a wearer's body; and

15        c) a pair of laterally directed perforation lines on at least one of two laterally opposed sides of said fit panel to provide at least one secondary fastener tab, said secondary fastener tab being configured to releasably engage said opposite waist region to further conform said waist regions to said wearer's body after said primary fasteners have been releasably engaged.

2. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said absorbent article includes one of said fit panels in each of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis.

3. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said fit panel comprises a latent elastic material.

4. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said fit panel comprises at least one elastic member which is applied to said fit panel in a pretensioned configuration.

5. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said fit panel is designed to elongate in a lateral direction at least about 30 percent to assist in positioning said disposable absorbent article about a wearer's waist.

6. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said fit panel is designed to elongate in a lateral direction at least about 50 percent to assist in positioning said disposable absorbent article about a wearer's waist.
7. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said primary fasteners are hook and loop type fasteners.
8. The absorbent article of claim 1 and further comprising at least one attachment panel which is located on said opposite waist region wherein said primary fasteners are configured to releasably engage said attachment panel.
9. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said inward edge of said fit panel is linear.
10. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said inward edge of said fit panel is curvilinear.
11. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said absorbent chassis includes an outer cover which comprises a necked nonwoven material.
12. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said fit panel is attached to a bodyfacing surface of said absorbent article.
13. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said absorbent chassis includes an outer cover and a bodyside liner and wherein said fit panel is incorporated between said outer cover and said bodyside liner.
14. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said fit panel is attached to a garment facing surface of said absorbent article.
15. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said secondary fastener tab defines a length in a lateral direction which is at least about 5 percent of a total lateral width of said fit panel.
16. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein both said primary fasteners and said at least one secondary fastener tab are hook and loop type fasteners.

17. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said inward edge of said fit panel is substantially fully attached to said absorbent chassis.

18. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said fit panel is located in said rear waist region of said absorbent chassis, and wherein said primary fasteners are configured to releasably engage said front waist region of said absorbent chassis.

19. The absorbent article of claim 1 wherein said fit panel comprises two laterally spaced apart side panels connected to said side edges of said absorbent chassis wherein each of said side panels defines said waist edge, said inward edge and one of said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and each of said side panels includes one of said primary fasteners thereon and wherein one of said side panels provides said at least one secondary fastener tab.

5. 20. A disposable absorbent article comprising an absorbent chassis which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a pair of longitudinally opposed end edges, and a pair of laterally opposed side edges, said absorbent article further comprising:

5 a) at least one fit panel which is located in one of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis and which defines a waist edge, a pair of laterally opposed outboard edges which are located laterally beyond said side edges of said absorbent chassis, and an inward edge which is located longitudinally inward from said waist edge;

10 b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region of said absorbent chassis to releasably engage said front waist region to said rear waist region to secure said absorbent article about a wearer's body; and

15 c) a pair of laterally directed perforation lines on each of two laterally opposed sides of said fit panel to provide a pair of laterally opposed secondary fastener tabs, said secondary fastener tabs being configured to releasably engage said opposite waist region to further conform said waist regions to said wearer's body after said primary fasteners have been releasably engaged.

21. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said fit panel comprises a latent elastic material.

22. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said fit panel comprises an elastomeric material.
23. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said fit panel is designed to elongate in a lateral direction at least about 30 percent to assist in positioning said disposable absorbent article about a wearer's waist.
24. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said fit panel is designed to elongate in a lateral direction at least about 50 percent to assist in positioning said disposable absorbent article about a wearer's waist.
25. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said primary fasteners are hook and loop type fasteners.
26. The absorbent article of claim 20 and further comprising at least one attachment panel which is located on said opposite waist region wherein said primary fasteners are configured to releasably engage said attachment panel.

34 27. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said absorbent chassis includes an outer cover, a bodyside liner in superposed relation to said outer cover, and an absorbent body located between said outer cover and said bodyside liner.

35 34 28. The absorbent article of claim 27 wherein said outer cover comprises a necked nonwoven material.

27 29 29. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said fit panel is attached to a bodyfacing surface of said absorbent article.

36 34 30. The absorbent article of claim 27 wherein said fit panel is incorporated between said outer cover and said bodyside liner.

28 31 31. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said fit panel is attached to a garment facing surface of said absorbent article.

21 32 32. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein each of said secondary fastener tabs defines a length in a lateral direction which is at least about 5 percent of a total lateral width of said fit panel.

~~30~~ 33. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein both said primary fasteners and said secondary fastener tabs are hook and loop type fasteners.

~~31~~ 34. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said inward edge of said fit panel is substantially fully attached to said absorbent chassis.

~~32~~ 35. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said fit panel is located in said rear waist region of said absorbent chassis, and wherein said primary fasteners are configured to releasably engage said front waist region of said absorbent chassis.

~~36~~ 36. The absorbent article of claim 20 wherein said fit panel comprises two laterally spaced apart side panels connected to said side edges of said absorbent chassis wherein each of said side panels defines said waist edge, said inward edge and one of said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and each of said side panels includes one of said primary fasteners and one of said secondary fastener tabs thereon.

37. A disposable absorbent article comprising an absorbent chassis which defines a front waist region, a rear waist region, a crotch region which extends between and connects said waist regions, a pair of longitudinally opposed end edges, and a pair of laterally opposed side edges, said absorbent article further comprising:

5 a) at least one fit panel which is located in one of said waist regions of said absorbent chassis and which defines a waist edge, a pair of laterally opposed outboard edges which are located laterally beyond said side edges of said absorbent chassis, and an inward edge which is located longitudinally inward from said waist edge;

10 b) a pair of primary fasteners which are located on said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and which are configured to releasably engage an opposite waist region of said absorbent chassis to releasably engage said front waist region to said rear waist region to secure said absorbent article about a wearer's body; and

15 c) a waist size adjustment means integral with said fit panel for further conforming said waist regions to said wearer's body after said primary fasteners have been releasably engaged.

*Sub  
D3*  
10

38. The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein said fit panel is elastomeric.
39. The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein said fit panel comprises a latent elastic material.
40. The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein said fit panel comprises at least one elastic member which is applied to said fit panel in a pretensioned configuration.
41. The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein said fit panel is designed to elongate in a lateral direction at least about 30 percent to assist in positioning said disposable absorbent article about a wearer's waist.
42. The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein said absorbent chassis includes an outer cover which comprises a necked nonwoven material.
43. The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein said fit panel is attached to a bodyfacing surface of said absorbent article.
44. The absorbent article of claim 37 wherein said fit panel comprises two laterally spaced apart side panels connected to said side edges of said absorbent chassis wherein each of said side panels defines said waist edge, said inward edge and one of said laterally opposed outboard edges of said fit panel and each of said side panels includes one of said primary fasteners thereon.

5